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communications

WICCA SEMINARY NEWS & VIEWS



ISSUE 6-84

DUR LADY OF ENCHANTMENT, BOX 1366, NASHUA, NH 03061

AUTUMN EQUINOX

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The Autumn Equinox occurs on the 22nd of September at 3:33 pm EST. This is a time of balance and equilibrium as the sun enters the sign of Libra. This is a time of rest from the labours of the growing season. Lughnasadh marked the actual gathering of the grain and crops, the harvest. However, in its sacrificial aspect, the Autumn Equinox marks the completion of the harvest and thanksgiving for abundance. Emphasis is on the return of that abun dance.

Some things that come to mind during this time are leaves turning, bird migrations, wine making, harvesting corn, fruits and nuts. Time to spend with friends around the fire sharing food and drink as the chill of winter is anticipated.

Our purpose this night will be to thank our Lord and Lady for the harvest and ask their blessings upon that which has been set aside for future nourishment. At this time the seeds of desire that were planted during the Spring Equinox shall be realized and made manifest for those who sowed and nurtured in the true wiccan spirit.

FOR THOSE THAT WANT TO KNOW WHAT "WITCHCRAFT" IS

tentment.

WITCHCRAFT is an archaic & derogatory term applied to those members and followers of magickal-religious philosophies based on fertility cults of early Pagan/Celtic Britain.

WICCA is a much more positive description of those members who religious rites and adhere to those magickal philosophies of early Pagan-Celtic Britain.

Wicca stems from Indo-European roots of "Wic" and "Weik" meaning to bend or turn. Thus the Wicca was someone who was skilled in the process (Craft) of shaping, changing or bending reality. These people came to be known as the "Wicca Craft," the wise ones of the village. In time we see "Wicca Craft" debased and become "Witchcraft."

WICCA CRAFT the Craft of the wise ones, is a religious philosophy as well as a working magickal system, by which the initiate is introduced to the mysteries of the universe, being taught to use and control those elements and powers that are inherent in all things:

> The purpose of our religion is to combine those forces, powers and elements that make up all living organisms, with those of the universe; channel and direct them for spiritual development and fulfillment, as well as for material

We do not worship any evil or negative force (i.e. Christian devil). This concept was invented to frighten and subdue the masses for political and religious control. Wicca predates Christianity, and works on a positive affirmation of taking responsibility for ones actions as well as living in harmony with those life forces that bring all things into being.

We do not practice black magick, sacrifice or indulge in orgiastic sexual activities under the guise of church or religion. We do, however, believe in the active and passive roles of the male and female aspect of celty and use this for spiritual evolvement, as well as an cont. page 2

What Witchcraft Is cont. from page 1

underlying-fundamental basis for our concept and relationship to the supreme force that created all life.

In our philosophy it is understood that men and women are not created equal. They are different, each with their own talents, capabilities and responsibilities. Each is respected according to their contribution to the group as a whole, their personal growth and evolution, and how they deal with and handle the mundane-material world. believe in balance of gender, force and power along equality of creative expression.

Man was not created in the image of God. God is the personifimanifestation cation and concepts, impressions and realization of inner truths and desires. Therefore, we look to higher forces with a positive, attitude and use this to inspire, comfort and fulfill those aspirations and ambitions deep within our souls.

Lady Sabrina



GATHERINGS & SEMINARS

NORTHWEST FALL EQUINOX CELEBRATION

Sept. 22 Celebration will be held at Beacon Rock State Park, Skamania, WA. For more information write to Northwest Equinox Celebration, PO Box 14015, Portland, OR 97214

WILD MAGICK GATHERING

Sept 21-23 Gathering at a private and protected site near Bloomington, Ind. Workshops, rituals, art, crafits and Sponsored by Elf Lore Family, 1082, Bloomington, IN 47402

TENTH ANNUAL HEALING ARTS FAIR

Oct. 5-8 Set in New Englands magnificent fall foliage, healers of many disciplines gather to share their knowledge and experience. Workshops, demonstrations. crafts, community participation and more. For more information contact ANOTHER PLACE, Mattanokit Community, Rt 123, Greenville, NH 03048

SAMHAIN RITUAL & CELEBRATION

Oct 31

Our Lady Of Enchantment, invites students and members to our annual Samhain Ritual and celebration. Pumpkin carving, stories, songs and ritual to welcome in the Celtic New Year. For more information contact Our Lady Of Enchantment, Box 1366, Nashua, NH 03061

9th ANNUAL PAGAN SAMHAIN FESTIVAL

Nov 4

From noon to 6pm the entire block at Magickal Childe will be closed off for this event. Entertainers include Margot Adler, Triparath & Keeny, Jim Allan & Selena Fox. There will be a traditional Welsh Sabbat performed by Earthstar Coven. For more infomation contact Magickal Childe, 35 W. 19th St., NY NY 10011

WHEN SENDING FOR INFORMATION ABOUT GATHERINGS OR SEMINARS PLEASE INCLUDE A SASE.



r of the Secred Rose Taroth res Workshop I (8 hours) — \$25

Sat, April 24 - Kate Ferraday/Moser. hours) - 334

April 27, 28 & 29 - Dr. Raymond Buckland: Seax Wicce Weekend Work-\$500 - \$150

Sat. May 5 -- Max Thoth: Perepsychology se a Science (6 hour workshop) -- £35 Sat May 12-Joanna Sherman: Secred hours) - \$36

May 18, 19 & 20 - Dr. Jim Heskins: Voc-Set May 25 - Max Thath: Perapayahas ogy II (8 hour workshop) - 330 June 1, 2 & 3 -- Dr. Israel Regardia: Weal-

Sat. June 9 - Or. Lee Louis Martello: For-ture Tolling through Playing Cards (8 hour workshop) - 835

and Workshop -- \$150

June 15, 18 & 17 - Or. At P. Manning: ESP Lab Weekend Workshop - \$150 June 22, 23 & 24 - Simon: Necronomi

June 29, 30 & 31 - Migens Gonzalez Wip-July 7, 8 & 9 - Grady Michilartry (Callon,

OTO: Material Crossing Workship - 5150 CALL FOR TIMES

July 13, 14 & 15 - Brad Steiger: Spirit Alchemy Westend Workshop - \$150

July 20, 21 & 22 - Kenneth Anger: May Lantern Cycle Lucifer Rising Weeker shop-\$150 (Films & Pres

(212) 242-7182

Set July 20 - Kate Ferraday/Moser: Adminced Taret (8 hours) - \$35

August 3, 4 & 5 - Gavin and Wonne Frost: School of Wicca Weekend Workshop - \$150 August 10, 11 & 12 - Janet and Slawart Far-rur: What Witches Do Weekend Wort-

shop - \$150 August 17, 18 & 19 - Sherel Ito & Lavinia Williams: Dirine Horseman Film, Haitlan Dance Demonstration & Weekend Work-

Sat August 25 - Lady Heather: Magickel Milishape or Now to Fry Yourself (6 hour

workshop) - \$35 Sat. Sept. 1 - Simon; Enochlan Magick Workshop (6 nours) - \$25

Sept. 7, 8 & 9 - Melita Dennings & Osborne Phillips: 3 Day Megical Retreat Workshop Wookend-8150

Sept. 14, 15 & 16 - Michael Sorteaux: Monestery of 7 Rays; Voodoo & Gnostic Teach-ings on Time & Space Weekend Work-3/00p - \$150

ALL EVENTS MUST BE PREREGISTERED AT LEAST ONE WEEK BEFORE COURSE MASTERCARD & VISA ACCEPTED. NO LAST MINUTE TICKETS AEGISTER EARLY! LIBEITED SPACE



THE EVOLUTION OF WICCA

PART III

By Phoeinx

When the first Christian churches were built in Britain the only workman available were the local people, many of whom were followers of the old religion. In building these churches the people incorporated in the decorations carvings of their own gods. These carvings were of nature deities, such as the "Green Man" and the 'Sheila-na-gig.' These were representations of the Horned God and the Goddess in their aspect as Lord and Lady of fertility.

During this time many people found themselves caught between the two religions. In 1282 a priest in Scotland was reprimanded for leading a dance around a phallic symbol. As the churche's power grew attendance of services became compulsory. It is said that the people of the Old Religion would enter through the north door, as this was seen as a place of power. Eventually church officials realized this so many of the older churches in England are now found with this door bricked up.

Christian authorities began to realize that they couldn't turn people away from the Old Religion by conversion alone. They had to make it appear as something evil. The Horned God had to be portrayed as the devil, and Witches as ugly hags. Witchcraft became a crime punishable by death. In order to survive Wicca had to go underground being practiced secretly by small groups of initiates.



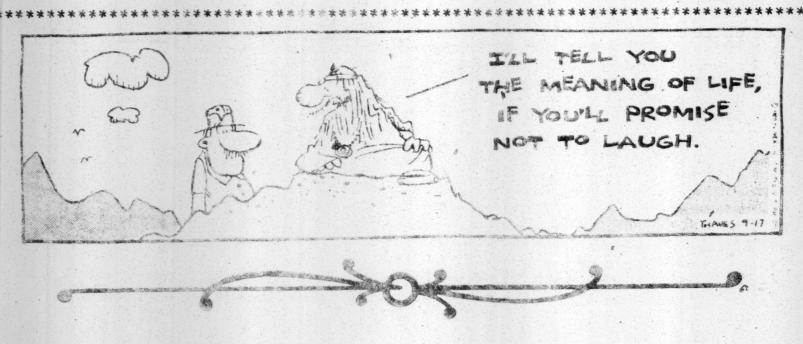
haded away.

Because of the persecutions information about the Craft in this period is difficult to find. Yet there is some remarkable evidence showing that it was still being practiced. Here is a woodcut from this period entitled "The Devil And His Worshippers." This is a classic representation of the God as Lord of fertility. Around his neck is the traditional Witches necklace representing the wheel of rebirth and the Goddess. He holds a torch in one hand and a broom in the another. The torch symbolizes the Sun, while the broom is both a phallic symbol and an object which relates to the hearth and thus the Goddess.

As time went on the furor of the Witch persecutions reached a peek and then slowly

During the reign of King George II the Witchcraft Act of 1735 was instabled. This in effect repealed many of the old laws by stating that Witchcraft didn't exist. Nearly nine million people had died during the persecutions and now it appeared that Witchcraft was gone.

Continued next issue



Wymns of Thanksgiving & Praise o

Autumn Equinox is harvest time, a season of thanks and symbolic sacrifice, labor and the promise of rest. Now is a time of dynamic balance when summer cools and winter's food is carefully laid by and we contemplate the good things life has given to our calloused hands.

-anon. circa 2000 B.C.

The Soy of Sumer (a fragment)
The king embraces his beloved bride,

Dumuzi embraces Inanna. Inanna, seated on Her royal throne shines like day. The king, like the sun, shines radiantly by Her side. He sets abundance, lushness and beauty before Her. He gathers the people of Sumer.

The Empress

Oh Queen of Heaven

mistress of our prayers,
Oh glorious mother **Eve**,
you who first bore child
and gave it suck,
you who first laid hand
upon the newborn brow,

Oh Perfect Mother & Us All.

I, fruit of your womb,

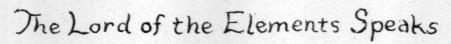
call your name **Blessed**and kneel here at your feet.

~R.W.Riley

An Ibo Poem (from West Africa)

Along the Benue River where its waters slide into the mighty Niger and thence through many fingers glide into the sea, the women and the men together build Mbari houses, sacred little wooden houses, where our lady Goddess Alamay sit upon the porch, with child upon Her knee, a sword sometimes in hand, looking out upon the Ibo world as the Ibo look at Her, glad that She dwells close by.

-anon.



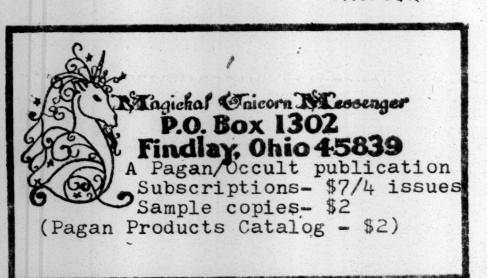
When the wind blows it is part of you; the Sun gives to you and is part of you with each sunbeam; from the water you came and the water joins you all; without the air you breathe you could not live. If one suffers the whole consciousness of Earth suffers; when one rejoices the whole consciousness knows and is part. Your bodies are one with the environment. Oneness is right here and now.

-The Findhorn Garden

I Went to the Woods (from Walden)

I went to the woods because I wished to live deliberately, to front only the essential facts of life, and not, when I came to die, discover that I had not lived.

- Thoreau





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LESSON IN FAITH

By Sarena Remington (MS-139)

A lesson in faith, in yourself. People around you try very hard living their lives through your skin. In this instant, you'll find that people will tell you throughout your life, you should not practice witchcraft; but to tell the truth, there are very few feelings on earth that can come even close to the feelings you get when you are doing a ritual. It is similiar to the love between people of like mind and feelings. You know you are not alone. You know what you want and your mind and heart are clear and true. Remain tru to yourself and don't look back. Because, when everyone has gone, you will have to live with your decisions whatever they may be.

People of the craft know what I'm talking about. You are at peace with yourself and people around you. We have an understanding about life and nature that most people do not. We know how to love without the guilt. We know what most people only dream of. We are home.

To me the Craft is home. I have never been happier in my life. The peace is more than I could have hoped for. The love again is something else.

So the next time someone tells you that you should not practice Witch-craft, don't listen. But do listen to yourself. Have faith. You can do it. Most of us who practice the Craft don't listen to people who try to live our lives for us. This is for the others who are not incontrol. I wish you peace. Make up your mind, and have faith. After all it is your life; maybe it is up to you after all.

CRAFT PUBLICATIONS

CIRCLE NETWORK NEWS (quarterly-newspaper style) Wicca/Pagan oriented. Circle, P.O. Box 219, MT Horeb, WI 53572

COUNCIL OF MAGICKAL ARTS (occasional-journal) Craft related articles. CMA, 5920 Bissonnet #113, Houston, TX 77081

HARVEST (on Sabbats, 8 times yearly-journal) Wicca/Pagan oriented. Harvest, P.O. Box 228, S. Framingham, MA 01710

OF LIKE MIND (occasional-feminist-journal) Feminist/Craft related articles. Of Like MInd, P.O. Box 6021, Madison, WI 53716

SEAX-WICA VOYS (quarterly-journal) Seax-Wica Seminary student journal and related subjects. Seax-Wica Seminary, P.O. Box 7882, Charlottes-ville, VA 22906

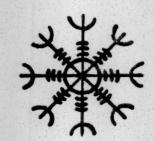
THE UNICORN (on Sabbats 8 times yearly-newsltter style) Wicca/Pagan related articles. The Unicorn, P.O. Box 8814, Mpis, MN 55408

MAGICKAL UNICORN MESSENGER (quarterly-journal) Wicca/Pagan stories, articles and news. Temple of Wicca, P.O. Box 1302, findlay, OH 45839

THUNDERBOW (monthly-newsltter from Church of Seven Arrows) Craft related news and articles. Thunderbow, 4385 Hoyt St. #201, Wheatridge, Co 80033

SPIRIT WITHIN NEWS (occasional-newsletter) Wicca/Pagan articles with a different out look from a group of prisoners. The Coven Of The Dawn, c/o- Rev. Wayne E. Gustafson, Box A. Thomaston, ME 04861





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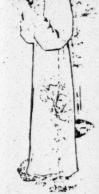
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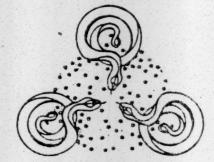
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STAFF MEMBERS; Editor-Lady Sabrina, Assistant Editor - Lord Phoenix Contributing Editor and Production Assistant Stone & Curunir

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